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News Release

Ministry of Northern Development and Mines

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McGuinty Government Invests In Future Prosperity

Northern Communities Prepare For International Investment

SUDBURY – The McGuinty government is helping six Timiskaming-Cochrane area communities better prepare to attract international business investment with assistance from the GO North Investor Program, Northern Development and Mines Minister Rick Bartolucci announced today.

“The work our government is doing on the international investment marketing front is vital in promoting the attractiveness and potential of Northern Ontario to the rest of the world,” said Bartolucci. “We are committed to partnerships with communities and businesses in the North so we can attract new business investments that will create long term prosperity for our communities.”

The North Claybelt Community Futures Development Corporation will receive \$18,859 from GO North’s Northern Community Investment Readiness initiative to develop community profiles and commercial land inventories for six member municipalities: Opatatika, Val Rita-Harty, Kapuskasing, Moonbeam, Fauquier-Strickland and Smooth Rock Falls. The community profiles will be posted on the Ontario Investment Service website.

The Northern Communities Investment Readiness Program gives eligible communities, economic development corporations, and First Nations up to \$5,000 per application for the development of essential and strategic community tools to help increase investment readiness and attract investors. Communities can also partner together on projects and subsequently receive up to \$5,000 for each eligible applicant. A key component of the GO North Investor Program, this initiative promotes a strong investment attraction climate in Northern Ontario. The program is administered by the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines with assistance from the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association and the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities.

“More and more communities are developing the potential to attract, receive and successfully explore investment opportunities,” said Timiskaming-Cochrane MPP David Ramsay. “Through our government’s GO North Investor Program, we are going out to the world to highlight the North’s competitive economic strengths and promote our northern lifestyle.”

Other McGuinty government initiatives that are supporting northern communities include:

- Improving northern highways by investing more than \$1.8 billion over five years in highway expansions and improvements through the Northern Ontario Highways Strategy

- Contributing \$60 million annually to the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund to support community and economic development.

The GO North initiative is part of the Northern Prosperity Plan. The plan is founded on four key pillars including: Strengthening the North and its Communities; Listening to and Serving Northerners Better; Competing Globally; and Providing Opportunities for All.

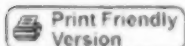
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Contacts:

Laura Blondeau
Minister's Office – Sudbury
(705) 564-7454

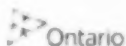
Dale Ashbee
MNDM – Thunder Bay
(807) 475-1518

www.resultsonario.gov.on.ca



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Technical Inquiries to: webmaster.ndm@ontario.ca

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